

What is claimed is:

1           1.    A humidifier for a continuous positive airway  
2   pressure device, comprising:  
3           a humidifier body;  
4           an air inlet provided to the humidifier body;  
5           an air outlet provided to the humidifier body;  
6           a plurality of chambers defined within the  
7   humidifier body;  
8           a plurality of baffles between one of the plurality  
9   of chambers and an adjacent one of the plurality of  
10   chambers;  
11          an opening provided between two of the plurality of  
12   baffles, the opening connecting the adjacent two of said  
13   plurality of chambers; and  
14          a deflector baffle being one of the plurality of  
15   baffles, the deflector baffle being located proximate to  
16   the opening and defining a serpentine fluid flow path  
17   between the adjacent chambers.

1           2.    The humidifier of claim 1, wherein the air  
2   outlet is spaced away from the humidifier body and  
3   defines an air outlet chamber.

1           3.    The humidifier of claim 1, wherein the air  
2   inlet is provided with an inlet baffle.

1           4.    The humidifier of claim 1, wherein at least one  
2   of the plurality of baffles is curved.

1           5.    The humidifier of claim 1, wherein at least one  
2   of the plurality of baffles is connected to a top side of  
3   the humidifier body and is spaced apart from a bottom  
4   side of the humidifier body.

1           6.    The humidifier of claim 1, wherein each of the  
2   plurality of baffles is connected to a top side of the  
3   humidifier body and is spaced apart from a bottom side of  
4   the humidifier body.

1           7.    The humidifier of claim 1, wherein the  
2   humidifier body comprises a base portion and a cover  
3   portion.

1           8.    The humidifier of claim 7, wherein the base  
2   portion and the cover portion are permanently bonded  
3   together.

1           9.    The humidifier of claim 7, wherein the cover  
2   portion is removable from the base portion.

1           10.   The humidifier of claim 7, wherein the base  
2   portion and the cover portion are provided with a tongue

3 and a corresponding groove.

1           11. A humidifier for a continuous positive airway  
2    pressure device, comprising:

3 a humidifier body;

4 an air inlet provided to the humidifier body;

5 an air outlet provided to the humidifier body;

6           a plurality of chambers defined within the  
7   humidifier body;

8       a non-planar dividing wall separating an adjacent  
9       two of said plurality of chambers; and

10           an opening in the dividing wall providing fluid  
11   communication between chambers.

1           12. The humidifier of claim 11, wherein each of the  
2 chambers is partially filled with water and partially  
3 filled with air, and wherein the water within chambers  
4 proximate to the outlet has a level higher than that of a  
5 level of the water within chambers proximate to the  
6 inlet.

1           13. The humidifier of claim 11, wherein the air  
2    within the humidifier forms at least one eddy.

1           14. The humidifier of claim 11, wherein the  
2           dividing wall comprises a plurality of arced sections.

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of the study population	
Characteristic	Value
Age (mean $\pm$ SD)	65.2 $\pm$ 12.5
Gender (male/female)	112/88
Education (years)	12.5 $\pm$ 2.1
Marital status (married/divorced/widowed)	105/15/15
Occupation (retired/working)	105/15
Family size (mean $\pm$ SD)	3.2 $\pm$ 1.5
Income (USD/month)	1,200 $\pm$ 300
Comorbidities (hypertension/diabetes/cholesterol)	85/45/65
Medication (antidepressants/antipsychotics)	100/10
Duration of illness (years)	15.5 $\pm$ 8.2
Previous hospitalizations (mean $\pm$ SD)	2.5 $\pm$ 1.2
Current symptoms (depression/anxiety)	95/10
Functional status (GDS-15 score)	12.5 $\pm$ 3.5
Quality of life (SF-36 score)	45.5 $\pm$ 15.5
Healthcare utilization (visits/year)	3.5 $\pm$ 1.5
Health insurance (public/private)	100/10
Religious beliefs (religious/secular)	90/10
Social support (strong/weak)	85/15
Stress levels (high/low)	75/15
Life satisfaction (satisfied/dissatisfied)	80/10
Overall health (good/poor)	95/10



3 the outlet is in adjacent communication with the second  
4 chamber.